

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gregory P. Durbin (Registration No. 42,503) on 9/23/2008.
3. The Application has been amended as follows:
4. **Pursuant to claim 1**, the phrase "the timing response" in line 1 has been amended to --a timing response-- for proper antecedent basis. The phrase "the operation of generating a correction factor including..." in lines 9-10 has been amended to --*wherein* generating a correction factor *includes*-- for proper antecedent basis and for proper grammar.
5. **Pursuant to claim 12**, the phrase "the timing response" in line 1 has been amended to --a timing response-- for proper antecedent basis. The phrase "the estimated timing response" has been amended to --the coarse estimated timing response-- for proper antecedent basis. The phrase "the operation of generating a correction factor including..." in lines 10-11 has been amended to --*wherein* generating a correction factor *includes*-- for proper antecedent basis and for proper grammar. "Course" has been amended to --coarse-- in line 11 for proper spelling.

6. **Pursuant to claim 22**, the phrase "the operation of generating a correction factor including..." in lines 7-8 has been amended to --*wherein* generating a correction factor *includes*-- for proper antecedent basis and for proper grammar.
7. **Pursuant to claims 23, 24 and 28**, the phrase "the method claim..." in line 1 of each respective claim has been amended to --the method of claim...-- for proper antecedent basis.
8. **Pursuant to claim 30**, "course" has been amended to --coarse-- in lines 10 and 12 for proper spelling.
9. **Pursuant to claim 35**, the phrase "at least one instruction to generate" in lines 3 and 7 has been amended to --at least one instruction *executable* to generate-- for proper format under 35 USC 101.
10. **Pursuant to claim 37**, the phrase "A system for predicting the timing response of a circuit path, the method comprising" in lines 1-2 has been amended to --A system for predicting a timing response of a circuit path, the *system* comprising-- for proper antecedent basis.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

11. **Claims 1-3, 6-15, 17-25, 28, 30-33 and 35-42** are allowed.
12. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
13. **Pursuant to claims 1-3, 6-15, 17-25, 28, 30-33 and 35-42**, the application filed on 8/28/2003, wherein the independent claims 1, 12, 22, 30 and 37 recite the method/program/system for predicting a timing response of a circuit path, *wherein the combinations of steps/elements as recited in the claims include, among other things, the*

*following particular limitations which the prior arts made of record fail to teach or suggest:*

generating a correction factor based on a variation between the first estimated timing response/the coarse estimated timing response of the one or more selected circuit paths and the second estimated timing response/the refined timing estimates of the one or more selected circuit paths, ***wherein generating a correcting factor includes determining a statistical variation between the first estimated timing response/the coarse estimated timing response of the one or more selected circuit paths and the second estimated timing response/the refined timing estimates of the one or more selected circuit paths.***

14. Accordingly, the claimed invention is novel and un-obvious over the prior arts made of record.

15. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PATRICK SANDOVAL whose telephone number is (571)272-7973. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on 571-272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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